

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 03873 211556Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 PM-05 EB-08
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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8244
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SU
SUBJECT: PEACE PILLAR PROGRAM: POSSIBLE LOCKHEED NEGLIGENCE

1. WE ARE SENDING SEPTTEL ON SUDANESE DISAPPOINTMENT WITH PERFORMANCE OF C-130S SUPPLIED UNDER PEACE PILLAR PROGRAM. WISH ALERT DEPT TO POSSIBLE ISSUE WHICH COULD BE TROUBLESOME. SEEMS EVIDENT BASED ON INFO PROVIDED BY LOCKHEED TECHNICIANS TO PPM MAJOR DANSBY THAT SUDANESE C-130S CONTAIN SOME USED PARTS. DANSBY HAS DISCUSSED PROBLEM WITH USAF REPS WHO ARE SEEMINGLY UNBOtherED BY REPORTS. I RECALL SEEING USAF MESSAGE RECENTLY WHICH EXPLAINS THAT COMPUTER SYSTEM IT USES CANNOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN NEW AND USED PARTS.

2. WHATEVER TECHNICAL ARGUMENTS MAY BE, DEPT SHOULD BE WELL AWARE THAT SUDANESE AND PRESUMABLY SAUDIS WILL BE FURIOUS IF THEY FEEL THAT QUOTE BRAND NEW UNQUOTE C-130S HAVE USED PARTS. FEELING WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTENSE IN LIGHT PROBLEMS THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED. USG WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE. THIS COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES POLITICALLY AND ERODE USG CREDIBILITY. FURTHERMORE, IT CONCEIVABLE THAT, IF LOCKHEED IS SHOWN TO HAVE BEEN NEGLIGENT, SOME LEGAL ACTION MAY BE ADVISABLE.

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Message Attributes

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